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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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 letter of 16 October 1978 from the
 Director of Central Intelligence.

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1. About the middle of October the Verwaltung für Schulung (paramilitary police) issued instructions to all schools and Bereitschaften to drop the phrase "bei der DVdI" in their correspondence addressed to the headquarters of the VfS.
2. Chief Inspector Heitsch is now chief of staff of the paramilitary police. Hans Wulz, who formerly held this post, is now styled "Allgemeiner Vertreter". The principal assistants of Heitsch are Inspector Barowka, for training directives, reports, and official correspondence, and Oberpolizeirat Pannwitz, for organization.
3. The Russian counselors (sovietniki) attached to the schools and Bereitschaften attended a conference in Karlshorst on 12 and 13 October, which was presided over jointly by Generals Chuikov and Petrakovsky. Rules were laid down for the implementation of the changes in the relation between the counselors and German organs which are entailed by the relinquishment of SIA control and the installation of the Control Commission; it is expected that the counselors will exercise their influence chiefly in the political field, making sure that the police are well indoctrinated along Communist lines.
4. A strenuous effort has been made to merge the counselors into the German personnel of the schools and Bereitschaften and to conceal their presence from the local population. For this purpose a secret directive was issued that their uniforms should be ordered from local tailors by the school commandants and not by the sovietniki themselves. Nevertheless, the knowledge that Soviet advisers were present spread like wildfire in small communities.
5. It was officially announced that the issuance of equipment will be speeded up. The training schools in the armored category will get T-34 and lighter tanks.
6. The Type "A" (infantry) schools are organized into six rifle companies, three heavy machine gun companies, and one 80 mm. mortar company. All personnel are to receive rifle and machine pistol training, whereas machine gun and mortar training is only for selected personnel. The companies number 100 men each, plus the company commander, one PK deputy, and one clerk. The total training cadre numbers 207 men, including the 30 assigned to the individual companies. The Type "A" school at Eggesin is considered a model school, and also provides a six months' special training course for candidates for appointment as Bereitschaft commanders.

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7. The so called category 2 (non-com) training schools ceased to exist at the time of the recent reorganization. Non-commissioned officers are now being trained in the Bereitschaften.*
8. The Bereitschaften are also categorized according to the arm they specialize in: "A", infantry; "B", artillery; "C", armored. Each Bereitschaft has three Kommandos of 263 men each; the Kommando has three Abteilungen, equivalent to platoons. The total Bereitschaft strength is 946 men, including staff, signals and reconnaissance detachments, and administrative elements. A "model" Bereitschaft is located in Pirna, which also trains non-coms detached from the schools in standardized company management.
9. Berlin now has one category "A" Bereitschaft at full strength under Inspector Walter Siegmund. This no longer comes under the jurisdiction of the Berlin Police Praesidium, but is directly under the VfS.**
10. The Bereitschaft stationed in Pinnow belongs to category "C". It is commanded by Inspector Pohlandt, formerly in command of the 1st Berlin Bereitschaft (old style). The unit has been issued one T-34 tank and one light reconnaissance vehicle of Russian manufacture. Personnel strength is 30 per cent. of T/O strength; there is no systematic training because of a lack of housing and training facilities.
11. In the selection of officer candidates no attempt is made to seek out the best officer material, but selections are made in a random fashion, chiefly on the basis of political reliability and physical fitness. The commandant of a category "A" school is reported to have stated that 20 per cent. of his student body was totally unsuited, 50 per cent. was medium quality non-com material, and the remaining 30 per cent. would presumably reach the standards aimed at in the training directives; the schedule is carried out, however, at the prescribed speed without regard to stragglers.
12. It is believed that when trainees are sworn in they are required to agree to serve for three years. This has caused many to hesitate, and 80 members of the Weissenfels Bereitschaft have refused to take the oath. A special commission was sent from Berlin to investigate the causes for refusal and to apply persuasion.
13. The SED is represented in the schools by a Party Group and an FDJ Group. The Party Group is headed by a police Kommissar assigned to the PK Abteilung, who is selected by the Party and devotes his full time to Party affairs. The FDJ functionaries are picked by the FDJ and serve in addition to their military duties; they are directly controlled by the PK leader (deputy commanding officer). The political training stresses the paramount importance of the National Front policy, and outward manifestations of Communist ascendancy, such as the singing of Communist songs, are eliminated. A political angle is given to every phase of the work; for example, carbine training is prefaced by a lecture emphasizing the importance of the rifle in the hands of the workers to defend their liberties against imperialist encroachments. The main function of the sovietnik is to see to it that political training is at no time sacrificed to military expediency, since it is realized that a well trained soldier is not necessarily an obedient tool of the régime. Since most of the students have no political convictions, they are not thought likely to offer ideological resistance for a long time, and it is expected that one year of political indoctrination will convert the average trainee into a convinced and in many cases a fanatical Communist.

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* [REDACTED] Comment: Thus the paramilitary police is for the present without combat effectives, consisting of training facilities, cadre, and student body only. There is no indication that a general draft is contemplated. Such a draft would hamper the schools in carrying out their political objectives, and would nullify the laborious efforts which have been made to conceal from the West the true meaning of the current development.

** [REDACTED] Comment: This is significant exception to the alleged independence of Berlin from the framework of the "German Democratic Republic", mentioned in [REDACTED]

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